

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 9-14, 17, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 39 and 40 have been allowed in the instant application. The present Amendment After Allowance pursuant to 37 CFR §1.312 is being submitted merely to re-present markush claim 1 as three separate independent claims (claims 1, 41 and 42 corresponding to allowed claims 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c), respectively) and markush claim 4 as three separate independent claims (4, 43 and 44 corresponding to allowed claims 4(a), 4(b) and 4(c), respectively). Dependent claims 9, 10, 17, 39 and 40 have also been amended as appropriate to correct their dependencies in view of the addition of claims 41-44. Accordingly, after the amendments presented herein have been entered, claims 1, 4, 9-14, 17, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33 and 39-44 will remain pending in the application.

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the specification and claims as filed and/or the claims as allowed.

No new matter has been added. Applicants submit that the above amendments raise no new issues which would require further consideration and/or search by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the aforementioned amendments be entered.

PRIORITY

Applicants submit that certified copies of each of the foreign priority documents have been submitted on December 4, 2006 in related U.S. Application No. 10/781014, which is a continuation of the present application. Accordingly, as provided in M.P.E.P. § 201.14(b)(II), Applicants submit that the filing of certified copies of the priority documents is unnecessary in the present application. Applicants submit that they are entitled to the benefit of the filing dates of each of the foreign applications under 35 USC § 119(b).

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants note that a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed on November 29, 2006 citing references cited in a corresponding Canadian application. Applicants note that the references were cited in the counterpart application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider such references and acknowledge such consideration by initialing and returning a copy of the PTO Form SB/08 filed on November 29, 2006.

CONCLUSION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the present filing to Deposit Account No. 12-0080 under Order No. BGI-126CP, from which the undersigned is authorized to withdraw.

If there are any remaining issues or if the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' Attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

Dated: March 15, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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